

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### Fairfield Legislators- State Funds Set To Be Approved For Operation Hope



Senate Minority Leader Pro Tempore John McKinney (R-28), State Rep. Thomas J. Drew (D-132), State Rep. Jack Stone (R-134), and State Rep. Cathy Tymniak (R-133) announced today that the State Bond Commission is slated to approve a grant in the amount of \$250,000 for Operation Hope of Fairfield CT, the non-profit agency dedicated to helping the homeless achieve stability and self-reliance. The grant, which goes before the bond commission for final approval on Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, will enable Operation Hope to renovate a newly leased 6900 sq. ft. building on Old Post Road in Fairfield, where they plan to expand their services and create a new food pantry. Operation Hope, which is in its 20<sup>th</sup> year of serving the most vulnerable of Greater Bridgeport's population, currently operates three homeless shelters (one each for men, women and families) and provides transition services for those who move on from their care.

"I want to thank Governor Rell and the State Bond Commission for supporting organizations like Operation Hope - the altruistic, community based groups that are there on the front lines in the state's effort to ensure that all citizens have access to basic human needs," said Senator McKinney. "Operation Hope stands as one of the state's most admired non-profit organizations, providing vital assistance to our region's homeless and vulnerable populations, and they are more than deserving of this assistance from the state to expand their services. Sadly, over the course of Operation Hope's 20 years, the need for their services has only grown, but thanks to the vision and commitment of the employees, volunteers and board members, the organization continues to meet the challenge."

"The services provided at Operation Hope are essential for people who are trying to maintain their independence and self sufficiency, and I couldn't be more delighted for Operation Hope and our community for getting this investment. This is an excellent example of the terrific results of bi-partisan collaboration. We now have vital services performed by a non-governmental body with the support of the community," said Rep. Thomas J. Drew, D-132.

State Rep. Cathy C. Tymniak, R-133, said, "I'm happy to see that the governor and the state are recognizing the tireless work that Operation Hope does in serving the homeless and the hungry in our community. This grant is very much appreciated."

State Rep. Jack Stone, R-134, said, “Thanks to Governor Jodi Rell for securing this assistance for Operation Hope. It is one of the most worthwhile social service organizations in the state. It does an outstanding job, and the need for its services continues to grow.”

The State Bond Commission is scheduled to meet on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, where it is expected to approve the grant to Operation Hope. The grant is administered through the Department of Social Services.